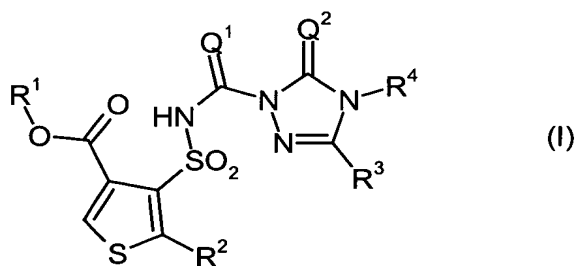


IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows. A marked up copy of the claims to show changes is attached to this Preliminary Amendment.

Please cancel Claim 9 and amend Claims 1-8 and 10 as follows.

1. (Once Amended) A compound of the formula (I)



wherein

Q¹ represents O or S ,

Q² represents O or S ,

R¹ represents in each case optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, heterocyclyl or heterocyclyl-alkyl,

R² represents hydrogen, cyano, nitro, halogen or represents in each case optionally substituted alkyl, alkoxy, alkoxy carbonyl, alkylthio, alkylsulphinyl, alkylsulphonyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkenyloxy or alkinyloxy,

R³ represents hydrogen, hydroxyl, mercapto, amino, cyano, halogen or represents in each case optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, alkylthio, alkylamino, alkylcarbonylamino, alkenyloxy, alkinyloxy, alkenylthio, alkynylthio, alkenylamino, alkynylamino, dialkylamino,

aziridino, pyrrolidino, piperidino, morpholino, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, cycloalkyloxy, cycloalkylthio, cycloalkylamino, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylalkoxy, cycloalkylalkylthio, cycloalkylalkylamino, aryl, arylalkyl, aryl-oxy, arylalkoxy, arylthio, arylalkylthio, arylamino or arylalkylamino, and

R⁴ represents hydrogen, hydroxyl, amino, cyano, represents alkylidene-amino or represents in each case optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, alkylamino, alkyl-carbonylamino, alkenyloxy, dialkyl-amino, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylamino, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl or arylalkyl, or

R³ and R⁴ together represent optionally branched alkanediyl, or one or more salts of the compound of the formula (I).

2. (Once Amended) The compound according to Claim 1, wherein

Q¹ represents O or S ,

Q² represents O or S ,

R¹ represents optionally cyano-, halogen- or C₁-C₄-alkoxy-substituted alkyl having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, represents in each case optionally cyano- or halogen-substituted alkenyl or alkynyl having in each case 2 to 6 carbon atoms, represents in each case optionally cyano-, halogen- or C₁-C₄-alkyl-substituted cycloalkyl or cycloalkylalkyl having in each case 3 to 6 carbon atoms in the cycloalkyl group and optionally 1 to 4 carbon atoms in the alkyl moiety, represents in each case optionally nitro-, cyano-, halogen-, C₁-C₄-alkyl- or C₁-C₄-alkoxy-substituted aryl or aryl-alkyl having in each case 6 or 10 carbon atoms in the aryl group and optionally 1 to 4 carbon atoms in the alkyl moiety, or represents in each case optionally nitro-, cyano-, halogen-, C₁-C₄-alkyl- or C₁-C₄-alkoxy-substituted heterocyclyl or heterocyclylalkyl having in each case up to 6

substituted heterocyclyl or heterocyclylalkyl having in each case up to 6 carbon atoms and additionally 1 to 4 nitrogen atoms and/or 1 to 2 oxygen or sulphur atoms in the heterocyclyl group and optionally 1 to 4 carbon atoms in the alkyl moiety,

R² represents hydrogen, cyano, nitro, halogen, represents in each case optionally cyano-, halogen- or C₁-C₄-alkoxy-substituted alkyl, alkoxy, alkoxycarbonyl, alkylthio, alkylsulphinyl or alkylsulphonyl having in each case 1 to 6 carbon atoms in the alkyl group, or represents in each case optionally cyano- or halogen-substituted alkenyl, alkynyl, alkenyloxy or alkynyloxy having in each case 2 to 6 carbon atoms in the alkenyl or alkynyl group,

R³ represents hydrogen, hydroxyl, mercapto, amino, cyano, fluorine, chlorine, bromine, iodine, represents optionally fluorine-, chlorine-, bromine-, cyano-, C₁-C₄-alkoxy-, C₁-C₄-alkyl-carbonyl- or C₁-C₄-alkoxy-carbonyl-substituted alkyl having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, represents in each case optionally fluorine-, chlorine- and/or bromine-substituted alkenyl or alkynyl having in each case 2 to 6 carbon atoms, represents in each case optionally fluorine-, chlorine-, cyano-, C₁-C₄-alkoxy- or C₁-C₄-alkoxy-carbonyl-substituted alkoxy, alkylthio, alkyl-amino or alkylcarbonylamino having in each case 1 to 6 carbon atoms in the alkyl group, represents alkenyloxy, alkynyloxy, alkenylthio, alkynylthio, alkenylamino or alkynylamino having in each case 3 to 6 carbon atoms in the alkenyl or alkynyl group, represents dialkylamino having in each case 1 to 4 carbon atoms in the alkyl groups, represents in each case optionally methyl- and/or ethyl-substituted aziridino, pyrrolidino, piperidino or morpholino, represents in each case optionally fluorine-, chlorine-, bromine-, cyano- and/or C₁-C₄-alkyl-substituted cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, cycloalkyloxy, cycloalkylthio, cycloalkylamino, cycloalkyl-alkyl, cycloalkylalkoxy, cycloalkylalkylthio or cycloalkylalkylamino

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having in each case 3 to 6 carbon atoms in the cycloalkyl or cycloalkenyl group and optionally 1 to 4 carbon atoms in the alkyl moiety, or represents in each case optionally fluorine-, chlorine-, bromine-, cyano-, nitro-, C₁-C₄-alkyl-, trifluoromethyl-, C₁-C₄-alkoxy- and/or C₁-C₄-alkoxy-carbonyl-substituted aryl, arylalkyl, aryloxy, arylalkoxy, arylthio, arylalkylthio, arylamino or arylalkylamino having in each case 6 or 10 carbon atoms in the aryl group and optionally 1 to 4 carbon atoms in the alkyl moiety, and

represents hydrogen, hydroxyl, amino, cyano, represents C₂-C₁₀-alkylideneamino, represents optionally fluorine-, chlorine-, bromine-, cyano-, C₁-C₄-alkoxy-, C₁-C₄-alkyl-carbonyl- or C₁-C₄-alkoxy-carbonyl-substituted alkyl having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, represents in each case optionally fluorine-, chlorine- and/or bromine-substituted alkenyl or alkynyl having in each case 2 to 6 carbon atoms, represents in each case optionally fluorine-, chlorine-, bromine-, cyano-, C₁-C₄-alkoxy- or C₁-C₄-alkoxy-carbonyl-substituted alkoxy, alkylamino or alkylcarbonylamino having in each case 1 to 6 carbon atoms in the alkyl group, represents alkenyloxy having 3 to 6 carbon atoms, represents dialkylamino having in each case 1 to 4 carbon atoms in the alkyl groups, represents in each case optionally fluorine-, chlorine-, bromine-, cyano- and/or C₁-C₄-alkyl-substituted cycloalkyl, cycloalkyl-amino or cycloalkylalkyl having in each case 3 to 6 carbon atoms in the alkyl group and optionally 1 to 4 carbon atoms in the alkyl moiety, or represents in each case optionally fluorine-, chlorine-, bromine-, cyano-, nitro-, C₁-C₄-alkyl-, trifluoromethyl- and/or C₁-C₄-alkoxy-substituted aryl or arylalkyl having in each case 6 or 10 carbon atoms in the aryl group and optionally 1 to 4 carbon atoms in the alkyl moiety, or

R³ and R⁴ together represent optionally branched alkanediyl having 3 to 6 carbon atoms,

and a sodium, potassium, magnesium, calcium, ammonium, C₁-C₄-alkyl-ammonium, di-(C₁-C₄-alkyl)-ammonium, tri-(C₁-C₄-alkyl)-ammonium, tetra-(C₁-C₄-alkyl)-ammonium, tri-(C₁-C₄-alkyl)-sulphonium, C₅- or C₆-cycloalkyl-ammonium and di-(C₁-C₂-alkyl)-benzylammonium salt of said compound of the formula (I).

(Once Amended) The compound according to Claim 1 wherein

Q¹ represents O or S ,

Q² represents O or S ,

R¹ represents in each case optionally cyano-, fluorine-, chlorine-, methoxy- or ethoxy-substituted methyl, ethyl, n- or i-propyl, n-, i-, s- or t-butyl, represents in each case optionally cyano-, fluorine- or chlorine-substituted propenyl, butenyl, propinyl or butinyl, represents in each case optionally cyano-, fluorine-, chlorine-, methyl- or ethyl-substituted cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, cyclopropylmethyl, cyclobutylmethyl, cyclopentylmethyl or cyclohexylmethyl, represents in each case optionally cyano-, fluorine-, chlorine-, bromine-, methyl-, ethyl-, n- or i-propyl-, trifluoromethyl-, methoxy-, ethoxy-, n- or i-propoxy-, difluoromethoxy- or trifluoromethoxy-substituted phenyl, phenylmethyl or phenylethyl, or represents in each case optionally cyano-, fluorine-, chlorine-, bromine-, methyl-, ethyl-, n- or i-propyl-, methoxy-, ethoxy-, n- or i-propoxy-substituted heterocyclyl or heterocyclylmethyl, where the heterocyclyl group is in each case selected from the group consisting of oxetanyl, thietanyl, furyl, tetrahydrofuryl, thienyl, tetrahydrothienyl,

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R^2 represents hydrogen, cyano, fluorine, chlorine, bromine, represents in each case optionally cyano-, fluorine-, chlorine-, methoxy- or ethoxy-substituted methyl, ethyl, n- or i-propyl, n-, i-, s- or t-butyl, methoxy, ethoxy, n- or i-propoxy, methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl, n- or i-propoxycarbonyl, methylthio, ethylthio, n- or i-propylthio, methylsulphinyl, ethylsulphinyl, methylsulphonyl or ethylsulphonyl, or represents in each case optionally cyano-, fluorine- or chlorine-substituted propenyl, butenyl, propinyl, butinyl, propenyloxy, butenyloxy, propinyloxy or butinyloxy,

R^3 represents hydrogen, hydroxyl, mercapto, amino, cyano, fluorine, chlorine, bromine, represents in each case optionally fluorine-, chlorine-, cyano-, methoxy-, ethoxy-, n- or i-propoxy, acetyl-, propionyl-, n- or i-butyroyl-, methoxycarbonyl-, ethoxycarbonyl-, n- or i-propoxycarbonyl-substituted methyl, ethyl, n- or i-propyl, n-, i-, s- or t-butyl, represents in each case optionally fluorine-, chlorine- and/or bromine-substituted ethenyl, propenyl, butenyl, ethinyl, propinyl or butinyl, represents in each case optionally fluorine-, chlorine-, cyano-, methoxy-, ethoxy-, n- or i-propoxy-, methoxycarbonyl-, ethoxycarbonyl-, n- or i-propoxycarbonyl-substituted methoxy, ethoxy, n- or i-propoxy, n-, i-, s- or t-butoxy, methylthio, ethylthio, n- or i-propylthio, n-, i-, s- or t-butylthio, methylamino, ethylamino, n- or i-propylamino, n-, i-, s- or t-butylamino, acetilamino or propionylamino, represents propenyloxy, butenyloxy, ethinyloxy, propinyloxy, butinyloxy, propenylthio, butenylthio, propinylthio, butinylthio, propenylamino, butenylamino, propinylamino or butinylamino, represents dimethylamino, diethylamino or di-propylamino, represents in each case optionally fluorine-, chlorine-, methyl- and/or ethyl-substituted cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, cyclopentenyl, cyclohexenyl, cyclopropyloxy, cyclobutyloxy, cyclopentyloxy, cyclohexyloxy, cyclopropylthio, cyclobutylthio, cyclopentylthio, cyclohexylthio, cyclopropylamino, cyclobutylamino, cyclo-

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pentylamino, cyclohexylamino, cyclopropylmethyl, cyclobutylmethyl, cyclopentylmethyl, cyclohexylmethyl, cyclopropylmethoxy, cyclobutylmethoxy, cyclopentylmethoxy, cyclohexylmethoxy, cyclopropylmethylthio, cyclobutylmethylthio, cyclopentylmethylthio, cyclohexylmethylthio, cyclopropylmethylamino, cyclobutylmethylamino, cyclopentylmethylamino or cyclohexylmethylamino, or represents in each case optionally fluorine-, chlorine-, bromine-, methyl-, trifluoromethyl-, methoxy- or methoxy-carbonyl-substituted phenyl, benzyl, phenoxy, benzyloxy, phenylthio, benzylthio, phenylamino or benzylamino, and

represents hydrogen, hydroxyl, amino, represents in each case optionally fluorine-, chlorine-, cyano-, methoxy- or ethoxy-substituted methyl, ethyl, n- or i-propyl, n-, i-, s- or t-butyl, represents in each case optionally fluorine-, chlorine- and/or bromine-substituted ethenyl, propenyl, butenyl, propinyl or butinyl, represents in each case optionally fluorine-, chlorine-, cyano-, methoxy- or ethoxy-substituted methoxy, ethoxy, n- or i-propoxy, n-, i-, s- or t-butoxy, methylamino, eth

(C₁-C₄-alkyl)-ammonium, tri-(C₁-C₄-alkyl)-sulphonium, C₅- or C₆-cycloalkyl-ammonium and di-(C₁-C₂-alkyl)-benzylammonium salt of said compound.

4. (Once Amended) A compound according to Claim 1 wherein

Q¹ represents O ,

Q² represents O ,

R¹ represents in each case optionally fluorine-, chlorine-, methoxy- or ethoxy-substituted methyl, ethyl, n- or i-propyl,

R² represents fluorine, chlorine, bromine or represents in each case optionally fluorine-, chlorine-, methoxy- or ethoxy-substituted methyl, ethyl, n- or i-propyl,

R³ represents hydrogen, chlorine, bromine, represents in each case optionally fluorine-, chlorine-, methoxy-, ethoxy-, n- or i-propoxy-substituted methyl, ethyl, n- or i-propyl, represents in each case optionally fluorine- or chlorine-substituted ethenyl, propenyl, butenyl, propinyl or butinyl, represents in each case optionally fluorine-, chlorine-, methoxy-, ethoxy-, n- or i-propoxy-substituted methoxy, ethoxy, n- or i-propoxy, methylthio, ethylthio, n- or i-propylthio, methyl-amino, ethylamino, n- or i-propylamino, represents propenyloxy, propinyloxy, propenylthio, propinylthio, propenylamino or propinyl-amino, represents dimethylamino or diethylamino, represents in each case optionally fluorine-, chlorine- or methyl-substituted cyclopropyl, cyclopropyloxy, cyclopropylmethyl or cyclopropylmethoxy, and

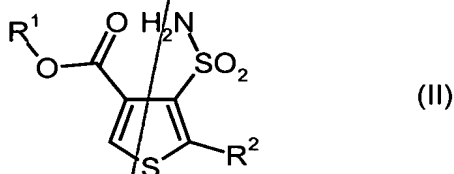
R⁴ represents in each case optionally fluorine-, chlorine-, methoxy- or ethoxy-substituted methyl, ethyl, n- or i-propyl, represents in each case

optionally fluorine- or chlorine-substituted ethenyl, propenyl or propinyl, represents in each case optionally fluorine-, chlorine-, methoxy- or ethoxy-substituted methoxy, ethoxy, n- or i-propoxy, represents methyl-amino, or represents cyclopropyl,

and a sodium, potassium, magnesium, calcium, ammonium, C₁-C₄-alkyl-ammonium, di-(C₁-C₄-alkyl)-ammonium, tri-(C₁-C₄-alkyl)-ammonium, tetra-(C₁-C₄-alkyl)-ammonium, tri-(C₁-C₄-alkyl)-sulphonium, C₅- or C₆-cycloalkyl-ammonium and di-(C₁-C₂-alkyl)-benzylammonium salt of said compound.

5. (Once Amended) A process for preparing a compound according to Claim 1, said process being selected from the group consisting of process (a), process (b), process (c), process (d) and process (e), wherein

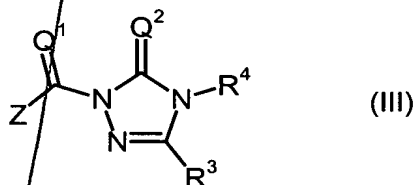
(a) said process (a) comprises the step of reacting a substituted thiophene-3-sulphonamide of the formula (II)



wherein

R¹ and R² are each as defined in Claim 1

with a substituted triazolin(ethi)one of the formula (III)



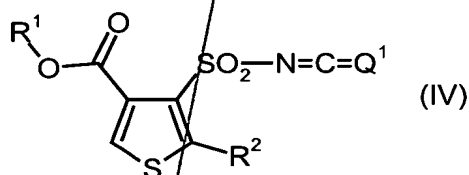
wherein

Q^1 , Q^2 , R^3 and R^4 are each as defined in Claim 1 and

Z represents halogen, alkoxy, aryloxy or arylalkoxy,

optionally in the presence of a reaction auxiliary and optionally in the presence of a diluent,

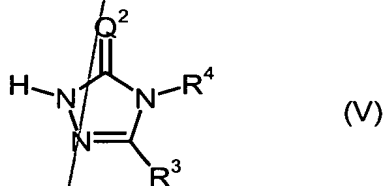
(b) said process (b) comprises the step of reacting a substituted thien-3-yl-sulphonyl iso(thio)cyanate of the formula (IV)



wherein

Q^1 , R^1 and R^2 are each as defined in Claim 1 ,

with a triazolin(ethi)one of the formula (V)

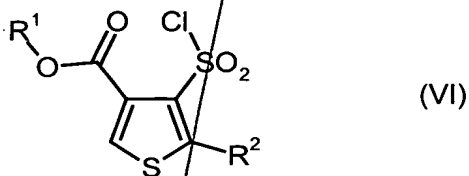


wherein

Q^2 , R^4 and R^5 are each as defined in Claim 1 ,

optionally in the presence of a reaction auxiliary and optionally in the presence of a diluent,

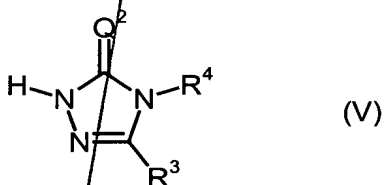
(c) said process (c) comprises the step of reacting a substituted thiophene-3-sulphonyl chloride of the formula (VI)



wherein

R¹ and R² are each as defined in Claim 1 ,

with a triazolin(ethi)one of the formula (V)



wherein

Q², R⁴ and R⁵ are each as defined in Claim 1

and a metal (thio)cyanate of the formula (VII)

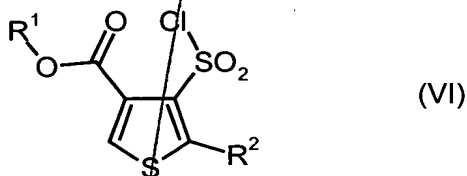


wherein

Q¹ is as defined in Claim 1 ,

optionally in the presence of a reaction auxiliary and optionally in the presence of a diluent,

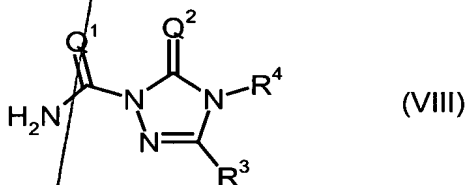
(d) said process (d) comprises the step of reacting a substituted thiophene-3-sulphonyl chloride of the formula (VI)



wherein

R¹ and R² are each as defined in Claim 1

with a triazolin(ethi)one-(thio)carboxamide of the formula (VIII)



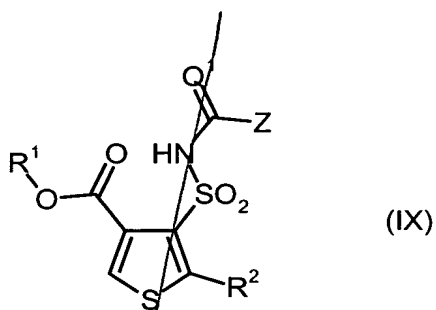
wherein

Q¹, Q², R³ and R⁴ are each as defined in Claim 1 ,

optionally in the presence of a reaction auxiliary and optionally in the presence of a diluent,

and

(e) said process (e) comprises the step of reacting a substituted thien-3-yl-sulphonylamino(thio)carbonyl compound of the formula (IX)

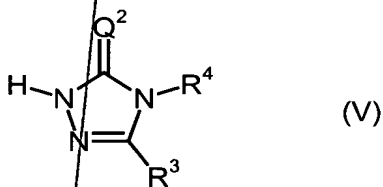


wherein

Q^1 , R^1 and R^2 are each as defined in Claim 1 and

Z represents halogen, alkoxy, aryloxy or arylalkoxy,

with a triazolin(ethi)one of the formula (V)



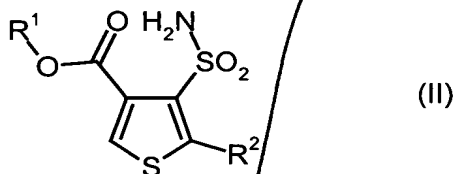
wherein

Q^2 , R^4 and R^5 are each as defined in Claim 1 ,

optionally in the presence of a reaction auxiliary and optionally in the presence of a diluent,

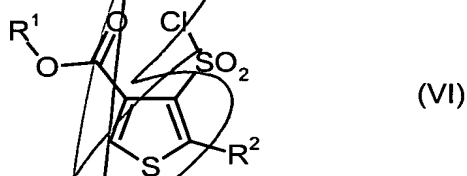
wherein each of said processes (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) further optionally comprises the step of converting the compound of the formula (I) obtained by said processes (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e), into a salt.

6. (Once Amended) A compound of the formula (II)



wherein R¹ and R² are each as defined in Claim 1, excluding the compound 4-methoxycarbonyl-thiophene-3-sulphonamide.

7. (Once Amended) A compound of the formula (VI)



wherein R¹ and R² are each as defined in Claim 1, excluding the compound 4-methoxycarbonyl-thiophene-3-sulphonyl chloride.

8. (Once Amended) A method for controlling undesirable vegetation, comprising the step of allowing one or more compounds according to Claim 1 to act on a member selected from the group consisting of an undesirable plant, a habitat of said undesirable plant and combinations thereof.

10. (Once Amended) An herbicidal composition comprising one or more compounds according to Claim 1 and a member selected from the group consisting of one or more extenders, one or more surfactants, and combinations thereof.